

Grade 7 Sample Test Prompt

Sentence Fluency

Going to the movies is a major source of entertainment for many students. Imagine that the only discount theater in your area is closing.

Write a persuasive essay in support of keeping the discount movie theater open .

Your writing should:

- Include a thesis statement.
- Have a developed point of view.
- Have an introduction, body, and conclusion.

Remember to edit for spelling, grammar, punctuation, and capitalization.

AIMS Six Trait Analytic Writing Rubric – Official Scoring Guide

SENTENCE FLUENCY

<p>6</p> <p>The writing has an effective flow and rhythm. Sentences show a high degree of craftsmanship, with consistently strong and varied structure that makes expressive oral reading easy and enjoyable. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a natural, fluent sound; it glides along with one sentence flowing effortlessly into the next. • extensive variation in sentence structure, length, and beginnings that add interest to the text. • sentence structure that enhances meaning by drawing attention to key ideas or reinforcing relationships among ideas. • varied sentence patterns that create an effective combination of power and grace. • strong control over sentence structure; fragments, if used at all, work well. • stylistic control; dialogue, if used, sounds natural. 	<p>5</p> <p>The writing has an easy flow and rhythm. Sentences are carefully crafted, with strong and varied structure that makes expressive oral reading easy and enjoyable. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a natural, fluent sound; it glides along with one sentence flowing into the next. • variation in sentence structure, length, and beginnings that add interest to the text. • sentence structure that enhances meaning. • control over sentence structure; fragments, if used at all, work well. • stylistic control; dialogue, if used sounds natural. 	<p>4</p> <p>The writing flows; however, connections between phrases or sentences may be less than fluid. Sentence patterns are somewhat varied, contributing to ease in oral reading. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a natural sound; the reader can move easily through the piece, although it may lack a certain rhythm and grace. • some repeated patterns of sentence structure, length, and beginnings that may detract somewhat from overall impact. • strong control over simple sentence structures, but variable control over more complex sentences; fragments, if present, are usually effective. • occasional lapses in stylistic control; dialogue, if used, sounds natural for the most part, but may at times sound stilted or unnatural.
<p>3</p> <p>The writing tends to be mechanical rather than fluid. Occasional awkward constructions may force the reader to slow down or reread. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • some passages that invite fluid oral reading; however, others do not. • some variety in sentences structure, length, and beginnings, although the writer falls into repetitive sentence patterns. • good control over simple sentence structures, but little control over more complex sentences; fragments, if present, may not be effective. • sentences which, although functional, lack energy. • lapses in stylistic control; dialogue, if used, may sound stilted or unnatural. 	<p>2</p> <p>The writing tends to be either choppy or rambling. Awkward constructions often force the reader to slow down or reread. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • significant portions of the text that are difficult to follow or read aloud. • sentence patterns that are monotonous (e.g., subject-verb or subject-verb-object). • a significant number of awkward, choppy, or rambling constructions. 	<p>1</p> <p>The writing is difficult to follow or to read aloud. Sentences tend to be incomplete, rambling, or very awkward. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • text that does not invite—and may not even permit—smooth oral reading. • confusing word order that is often jarring and irregular. • sentence structure that frequently obscures meaning. • sentences that are disjointed, confusing, or rambling.

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Writing

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Kid and Gunup go to movis and have fun tres
srn sub that is loud some movies are key
sum e are hot key sometimes you whe well
flet that neng your key care you do not like

Score point 1 – The writing is difficult to follow or read aloud. Sentences are disjointed. Sentence structure obscures meaning.

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The discount movie theater, if there were to close it would be harder when you get home you have to get dress in a hurry and get in to the car and go across town to get to the movie and get gas and it will take a long time to get there. And you would have to wait in line for a long time to get tickets. people would get fusterated because it cost more then discount movies you would spend less money you would save more time and save money and it would be no hosul between you and trafic. You can take your time going to the movies and you wouldn't have to worry about anything. You wouldn't have to get directions from some one to get there then get loss.

Score point 2 – The writing is rambling. Awkward constructions force the reader to slow down or reread. “The discount movie theater, if there were to close it would be harder...”

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* Title:
Closing

In my neighborhood we have this really cheap movie theater. One day my friend and I went to that theater, and guess what it had a closing sign on it.

So then we went in and went to talk to him and we asked the owner, why the theater was closing? He told us that he'll let us know later, because he had a very important meeting to go to.

Later, he said, it was because the theater wasn't earning enough money to pay the electric bill. So I suggested we have a fundraiser to him, and he agreed to have one.

That Saturday we had the fundraiser. I was a great success. We earned up to 30,000 dollars to pay four years off and my friend and I got to go to the movies free for four years.

* The End *

Score point 3 – Writing tends to be mechanical. The writer shows control over simple sentences but not over more complex sentences. Sentences are functional, but lack energy: “So then we went in and went to talk to him and asked...”

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Although some people are planning on taking the movies away, I don't think it's very fair. Movies are enjoyable and equally entertaining for everyone. There are some disadvantages of keeping the theater, advantages of keeping it, and some things I can do to help keep the theater open.

To start, there are the disadvantages of keeping the movie theater. If we kept it, there wouldn't be a chance of something bigger and better being built in its place. If we kept the movies, there also wouldn't be as much of a chance for kids, and even adults, to do better things like study or exercise. In conclusion, there are some disadvantages, but not enough for people to want the movies gone.

Next, the advantages of keeping the theater. The movies make a lot of money because so many people go there. It is pleasurable for everyone. When somebody is down in the dumps, or has a birthday, where do they go? They go to the movie theatre to cheer them up or just to have a little fun. The movie theater is where some people go just to hangout with their friends, taking it away would be like taking the soccer ball away from the game of soccer. It just doesn't work. To sum up, there are a lot of reasons to keep

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the theater open.

Last, there are some things that I can do to help keep the theater open. First, I can make a petition. I know that there are plenty of people that will be happy to sign it. Also, I think that it wouldn't be a bad idea for people to vote on the issue. For now, all I can do is state my opinion, which I have done, and ask you nicely if the theater will remain open.

All in all, there are some disadvantages, but many many more advantages to keeping the movie theater. It should remain open because it makes a lot of money, it is enjoyable for everyone, and it is the popular hangout for a lot of people. The decision is up to you, but I hope that by stating my case, I have influenced you to do the right thing.

Score point 4 – Sentence patterns are somewhat varied. There is a natural sound although the writing lacks a certain rhythm and grace. There is strong control over simple sentences; variable control over more complex sentences. “If we kept the movies, there also wouldn’t be as much of a chance for kids, and even adults, to do better things like study or exercise.”

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People of all ages can find a source of entertainment at a reasonable fee at our discount theater. They may no longer have the option to do so because the only discount theater that remains in their area is being closed. If the theater shut down, the memories these people could have made or shared may never be known. If a grandfather was trying to show his grandson how good things used to be back in the day, he wouldn't take him to a fancy theater, he would take him to a place where he spent his free time playing or laughing at his favorite discount theater. Also, teenagers would be able to go out with friends without punching a hole through their wallets. Because this theater is the only discount theater that remains in our area, it should remain open.

The discount theater may be old and a little rough, but it holds remarkable memories no one could ever forget. This could be the place where a young child took his first steps, or a place where teenagers shared their first kiss. Just picture a young boy with his hair roughly combed back sitting against the wall of the theater. His shoes have been kicked off to the side while he bounces a ball to a red brick wall and releases his anger. If the theater was closed, it would shut the door on many things

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like that from happening again.

If a young boy or girl didn't have a lot of money and a new movie was out, they could go to the discount theater and relax with a 69¢ coke being grasped lightly in one hand and a warm hot dog in the other. Without the discount theater many people would be limited to where they could go. If they finally decide to pay the money and go to the expensive theater, it wouldn't be relaxing. Since there is one instead of two theaters, it would be packed with people. Also, the new lights are glaring so hard, it tenses up your body and you don't want to lean back. With the mixture from the heat from the light and the extra body heat from the people, the theater might not be a comfortable temperature. Even if someone was hungry or thirsty, they already had spent all of their money on the ticket and wouldn't have enough money. Since the new theater was getting more customers, it would probably raise the prices.

Many teens today save their money and tend to be cheap. A discount theater could be a place for them to enjoy a movie with a few friends and a lot of food. They don't want to waste all of their money on a short movie. If the discount theater was closed where would they go?

People of every generation could enjoy a cheap movie in a decent area. If it was closed down, they would no longer have that opportunity. Because this theater is the only discount theater that remains in our area, it should remain open.

Score point 5 – The writing has an easy flow and rhythm. There is variation in sentence structure, length, and beginnings. Sentence three in paragraph one is an example of a carefully crafted sentence. Sentence structure enhances meaning: “This could be a place where a young child took his first steps, or a place where teenagers shared their first kiss.” “If the theater were closed, it would shut the door on many things like that from happening again.”

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Have you ever had a place that you frequented so often that it felt like home? Many people have. My friends and I had just such a place, before it was closed. You could always find it nestled in the heart of town. It was the 98¢ent theatre; the only theatre in the city where you could get a ticket and popcorn for under \$1.

My friends and I would haunt the 98¢ent theatre at least twice a week. You could always find the best movies, the best food, and the best people there.

During summer, we would be there every day, using the lobby in lieu of a tree house or living room. My parents were close friends of the owners, and thus I received special treatment. Everything was fantastic.

My tightly-knit group of friends rarely ventured into the larger theatres such as the Showcase Cinema at the Multiplex. When we did, it definitely was not a rewarding experience. The high ticket prices, insanitary facilities, and unkind staff repelled us like nuclear fallout. We kept all of our business to the discount theatre, and allowed it to remain competitive for the better part of a few years.

In spite of all of our business, theater sales began to drop. The owners simply were unable to keep up with the big, new theaters. Then, one day

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the unthinkable happened. It was a hot, boring summer day and there was a newly released movie I yearned to see. As I approached the door, I saw a peculiar sign which read, "future home of Simon's Brothel." I was awed. I ran home and began calling my friends.

When I informed my friends of the news, they went into a state of disbelief. How could they replace our theater with a place like that? I went with them to our former house of refuge, and they saw what I had seen. They walked off in disbelief.

Our group began to fall apart after that. Without our theater, we had no real place to recreate. We all went our separate ways, but we never forgot our theater. I guess the moral of the story is to support the establishments you hold dear, but to not hesitate to let them go when their times come.

Score point 6 – Sentences show a high degree of craftsmanship, with consistently strong and varied structure that makes expressive oral reading easy and enjoyable. Sentence structure enhances meaning by drawing attention to key ideas. "My parents were close friends with the owners, and thus I received special treatment. Everything was copacetic." "The high ticket prices, unsanitary facilities, and unkind staff repelled us like nuclear fallout." The writer has strong control over sentence structure.

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